

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric, comprising;

- a. providing a precursor web,
- b. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device,
- c. hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device to form a patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric, and
- d. applying a binder finish to said nonwoven fabric to impart flame-retardant properties, followed by curing of said binder finish.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein:

said precursor web comprise polyester fibers.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 2, wherein:

said precursor web comprise flame-retardant polyester fibers.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein:

said precursor web is hydroentangled on a formainous surface prior to said step of hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein:

said flame-retardant properties are imparted by a halogenated urethane derivative.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric, comprising:

- a. providing a precursor web,
- b. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device,
- c. hydroentangling said precursor web on said image transfer device to form a patterned and imaged nonwoven fabric,
- d. applying a binder finish to said nonwoven fabric to impart flame-retardant properties, followed by curing of said binder finish,
- e. dyeing of said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A method of making a flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 6, wherein:

said nonwoven fabric is dyed by the method selected from the means consisting of jet dyeing, disperse dying, pad dyeing, screen printing, transfer printing, and the combinations thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric, comprising:

- a. ~~providing~~ a precursor web comprising flame-retardant polyester fibers,

b. said precursor web being imaged and patterned by hydroentanglement on a three-dimensional image transfer device to form a nonwoven fabric,

c. said nonwoven fabric receiving a substantially uniform application of a flame-retardant binder finish followed by a curing step, said binder finish being based on a halogenated derivative of a polyurethane backbone,

d. the resulting fabric exhibiting a weight loss due to vertical flame of less than 42%, an abrasion resistance of at least 50 Tabor cycles, and a tensile strength in the machine direction of at least 38 pounds.

Claim 9 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:
said nonwoven fabric exhibiting a final basis weight of between about 2.0 ounces per square yard and about 6.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 10 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 9, wherein:
said nonwoven fabric exhibiting a final basis weight of between 2.5 ounces per square yard and 3.5 ounces per square yard.

Claim 11 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:
said nonwoven fabric used in the fabrication of wall coverings.

Claim 12 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:
said fabric is employed in upholstery and drapery applications, and has a final basis weight between about 2.0 ounces per square yard and about 10.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 13 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 12, wherein:

said fabric has a final basis weight between 3.0 ounces per square yard and 6.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 14 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 8, wherein:
said fabric is employed in window covering applications, and has a final basis weight between about 0.5 ounces per square yard and 6.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 15 (original): A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 14, wherein:
said fabric has a final basis weight between about 1.0 ounces per square yard and 4.0 ounces per square yard.